

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants	: Shuichi HIRATA et al.	Group Art Unit : Not Yet Assigned
Appl. No.	: 10/596,218 (National Stage of PCT/JP2005/016376)	Examiner : Not Yet Assigned
Filed	: June 5, 2006	Confirmation No. : 3667
For	: METHOD OF CONTROLLING CONTACT LOAD IN ELECTRONIC COMPONENT MOUNTING APPARATUS	

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop AMENDMENT
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and §§1.97-1.98, Applicants hereby bring to the attention of the Examiner the following information.

The following documents were cited in an International Search Report with respect to International Patent Application No. PCT/JP2005/016376, of which the present application is the U.S. National Stage Application. A copy of the International Search Report has been filed concurrently with the present application and should thus have already been brought to the attention of the Examiner.

- (1) U.S. Patent No. 6,445,201 to SIMIZU et al. which issued on September 3, 2002; and
- (2) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2003-008196, together with an English language Abstract of the same. Applicants note that this

document is cited on page 4 of the specification of the above-captioned application.

The relevance of these documents, as ascertained with respect to the international claims by the International Examiner, is set forth in the International Search Report.

Further to 37 C.F.R. §1.98 (a)(2)(ii), a copy of the U.S. patent is not enclosed herewith. However, if a copy is needed, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

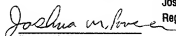
Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the above material and cite the same. A copy of the above-noted foreign document, including the noted English language Abstract, is attached hereto, and all of the documents are listed on an attached PTO-1449 Form. The Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached Form and to return a copy of the completed Form to Applicants with the next official communication in the present application.

Applicants note that an Office Action on the merits has not issued in the present application, and thus, no fee is believed necessary to ensure consideration of the submitted material.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

August 30, 2006
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Respectfully submitted,
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Application No.
10/596,218

Group
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[illegible][illegible]

	1	English Language Abstract of JP 2003-008196.

DATE CONSIDERED _____

*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.